

It will be seen from the above that while its action is somewhat different from that of aconite, the results are very similar. Dr. Ott advises, therefore, its trial in diseases where aconite is found useful. On account of its dangerous special properties, he advises the use of digitalis in case of poisoning. The paper concludes with an account of an experiment on a man weighing 215 pounds, who took five drops of the fluid extract followed at intervals of forty and thirty minutes respectively by additional doses of five and twenty drops. This produced, as in the lower animals, decreased pulse, salivation, perspiration, vomiting and diarrhœa.

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ACONITIA.—The following are the conclusions of a paper by Dr. Sidney Ringer on the antagonisms of aconitia on the frog's heart, in the *Journal of Physiology*, ii, 5 and 6 :

1. Aconitia slows and weakens the heart and incoördinates the ventricular contraction, this incoördination occurring before the heart's contractions are greatly weakened.
2. Sometimes the contractions, though greatly slowed and very incoördinate, continue fairly strong till the heart stops.
3. Aconitia acts on the ventricle far more powerfully than the auricles.
4. Aconitia has a more powerful action on the cerebro-spinal centres than on the nervous structure of the heart, for after complete paralysis the heart often continues to contract well for a considerable time.
5. The general depression from a poisonous dose of aconitia is partly and perhaps chiefly due to the direct action of the drug on the nervous centres, rather than to the weakening of the circulation consequent on the failure of the heart.
6. Atropia antagonizes the action of aconitia on the heart. It restores the contractions in a heart arrested by aconitia, and strengthens, accelerates, and coördinates the heart simply weakened, slowed, and incoördinated by aconitia.
7. Aconitia does not antagonize the action of muscarin, nor can muscarin antagonize the action of aconitia on the heart.
8. Atropia antagonizes the combined effects of aconitia and muscarin.
9. Pilocarpine does not antagonize the action of aconitia on the heart.
10. Atropia antagonizes the combined effects of aconitia and pilocarpine.

11. I have suggested that the antagonisms are due to chemical displacement. Atropia antagonizes muscarin, pilocarpine and aconitia because it has a stronger affinity for the muscular and nervous structures of the heart than these substances, and displaces them, replacing their effect by its own.

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THE THERAPEUTIC USE OF MAGNETS.—Dr. W. A. Hammond reports, in the November number of the *New York Medical Journal*, his experience with the therapeutic use of magnets. He describes two cases of hemiplegia and two of chorea in which the application of strong horseshoe magnets produced, apparently, astonishing results. In the two choreic cases a few minutes' application cured the disease, and there was no relapse. In one of the hemiplegics there was a recovery of both sensation and motion of the paralyzed side on the day of the application, and speech (the patient was aphasic) returned before the next morning. Some twenty days later, however, a second attack proved fatal. In the other case there followed the use of the magnet a complete and lasting return of sensibility, but no improvement in other respects. In seven other cases of chorea the magnets had no effect.

Dr. Hammond, commenting on these cases of hemiplegia, as well as those reported by Debove and Boudet, suggests that whatever organic lesion existed was mainly, at least, situated in the thalamus. It would be asking too much, he thinks, to claim any specific influence of the magnets, and the frequent transitory character of the symptoms in thalamic lesions affords one of the best means of explanation. It may be that a strong mental influence was the cause of the relief. He offers the cases simply as facts of interest, pointing out a line worthy of further research.

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The following are the titles of a few of the recently-published articles on the therapeutics of the nervous system and mind :

ROCKWELL, On the Value of the Galvanic Current in Exophthalmic Goitre, *N. Y. Med. Rec.*, Sept. 11.—NEWLAND, On the Rational Treatment of Epilepsy, *St. Louis Med. and Surg. Jour.*, Oct. 5.—SEGUR, Prophylaxis of Puerperal Convulsions, *Prac. Med. Soc. Co. Kings*, Oct., 1880.—GARRETTSON, Excision of the Inferior Dental Nerve by means of the Dental Engine, for the Relief of Obstinate Neuralgia, *N. Y. Med.*